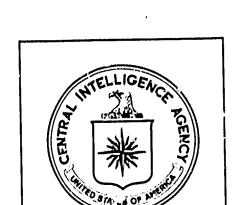
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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE

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Another Cominformist Affair

Belgrade's discovery of a new Cominformist plot will heighten Yugoslav suspicions of the Soviet Union and could again cast a pall over relations with Moscow.

Belgrade announced on Sunday that seven persons from Tuzla, in Bosnia-Hercegovina, have been arrested for "Stalinist-Cominformist" activities against the state. This is the second Cominformist case in less than a year. Last April, 32 Cominformists were arrested and later convicted for organizing an illegal Communist party in Montenegro. The subversive party, which was supported by Moscow, based its legitimacy on the allegation that Tito had abandoned the revolution when he broke with Stalin in 1948.

Few details have been revealed about those currently under arrest, but the description of their crimes implies that they may be supporters of Aleksandr Rankovic, Tito's former heir apparent who was purged in 1966.

The announcement of the arrests may have been timed to take some of the sting out of the conviction of Mihajlo Mikajlov, a dissident political writer whose case has been championed by many influential Western newspapers. Publicizing the Cominformist arrests provides Belgrade the means to undercut Western press charges that the Mihajlov case and recent measures against other liberal dissidents signal that Tito is "returning to Stalinism."

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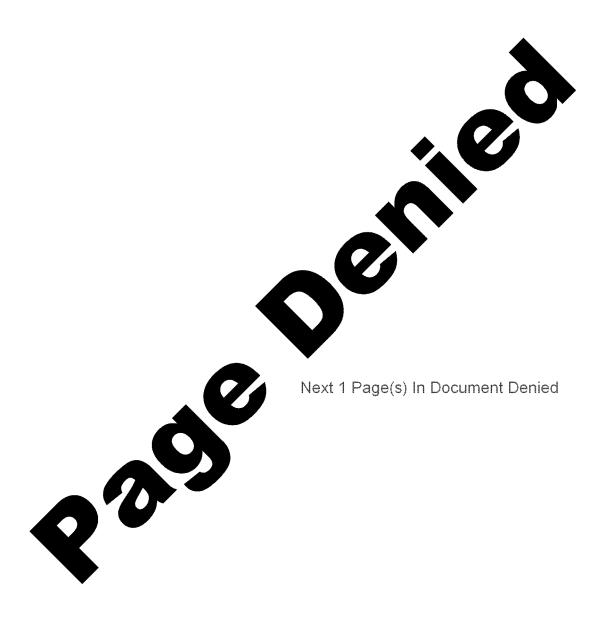
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25X1	Belgrade's propaganda has repeatedly asserted that the Yugoslav Cominformists draw most of their support from abroad. Only last week the Yugoslavs attacked Bulgaria for allegedly harboring notorious pro-Soviet exiles.	25X1

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East German Foreign Minister's Travels

Oskar Fischer, East Germany's newly appointed foreign minister, has just completed a round of "get acquainted" visits to the USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria.

In addition to paying proper obeisance to Moscow and reciting the standard formula on international issues, the communiques issued after each visit have called for "full" or "consistent" implementation by Bonn of the various treaties the West Germans have signed with the "socialist countries," and for "strict compliance" with the 1971 Quadripartite Agreement. This last point may have received more than the usual attention because of recent Soviet and East German charges that the establishment of an office of the European Community in West Berlin violates the Quadripartite Agreement Polish and Czechoslovak documents contain a special admonition against any West German attempts to interfere in Pankow's relations with third countries -- a direct reference to the politically delicate question of delineating East and West German citizenship

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Fisher's first visit was to Moscow, a week after his appointment on January 20. Hungary was not included in Fischer's tour, perhaps because Hungarian leaders are preparing for their party congress later this month. Hungarian Foreign Minister Puja, however, arrived in East Berlin on Monday to complete the round of consultations between Fischer and East Germany's orthodox allies.

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